

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

BREANNA ZAMORA, an individual,

Plaintiff,

v.

BRANDSAFWAY SERVICES, LLC
f/k/a SAFWAY SERVICES, LLC;
BRAND INDUSTRIAL SERVICES,
INC.; “DOE(S) 1-100” employees of
BRANDSAFWAY SERVICES, LLC
and/or BRAND INDUSTRIAL
SERVICES, INC.; and
“CORPORATION(S) XYZ 1-100,”

Defendants.

CASE NO. 2:24-cv-01507-MJP

ORDER GRANTING IN PART
STIPULATED MOTION FOR
PROTECTIVE ORDER

This matter comes before the Court on the Parties’ Stipulated Motion for Protective Order. (Dkt. No. 20). Having reviewed the motion and all supporting materials, the Court GRANTS IN PART the Motion.

1 The Court takes no issue with the majority of the proposed protective order, which
2 adheres to the district's model. See LCR 26(c)(2) ("Parties are encouraged to use this district's
3 model protective order, available on the court's website."). However, in Section 2 of the
4 proposed order, the Parties have stipulated to designate as confidential "any other information
5 agreed upon by the parties during the course of the litigation." (Mot. at 2.) The Court declines to
6 adopt this language because it would allow the Parties free rein to amend the protective order
7 without first seeking the Court's permission to do so. The Court therefore strikes the offending
8 language from the order. Should the Parties later seek to designate other categories of
9 information as confidential, they may move to amend the protective order.

10 In summary, the Court GRANTS IN PART the Motion for Protective Order with the
11 exception of the language discussed above. The Court has reproduced the protective order, minus
12 the stricken language, below. IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d),
13 the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purposes of this proceeding
14 or any other federal or state proceeding, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege
15 applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product
16 protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

17 The clerk is ordered to provide copies of this order to all counsel.

18 Dated December 23, 2024.

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20 Marsha J. Pechman
21 United States Senior District Judge
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1 1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

2 Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or
3 private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby
4 stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties
5 acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket
6 protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public
7 disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential
8 treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file
9 confidential information under seal.

10 2. “CONFIDENTIAL” MATERIAL

11 “Confidential” material shall include the following documents and tangible things
12 produced or otherwise exchanged: Plaintiff’s medical records and bills, bank account information,
13 financial information, tax records, and sensitive employee files and records; personal identifying
14 information of non-party employees and/or third parties; confidential and proprietary information
15 relating to Defendants’ business practices and finances, including trade secrets, internal policies,
16 financial records, tax records; Defendants’ intellectual property; and documents and information
17 regarding non-party employees and/or third parties who have an interest in privacy of that
18 information.

19 3. SCOPE

20 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
21 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
22 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
23 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.
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1 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
2 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

3 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

4 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed or
5 produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
6 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
7 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
8 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
9 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

10 4.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered by
11 the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
12 confidential material only to:

13 (a) the receiving party’s counsel of record in this action, as well as employees of counsel
14 to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

15 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the receiving
16 party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties agree that a
17 particular document or material produced is for Attorney’s Eyes Only and is so designated;

18 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation
19 and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

20 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

21 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of confidential
22 material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service instructs the
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1 service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately return all
2 originals and copies of any confidential material;

3 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is reasonably
4 necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A),
5 unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed
6 deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must be separately
7 bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this
8 agreement;

9 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other
10 person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

11 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
12 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party,
13 in accordance with Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(A), to determine whether the designating party will
14 remove the confidential designation, whether the document can be redacted, or whether a motion
15 to seal or stipulation and proposed order is warranted. During the meet and confer process, the
16 designating party must identify the basis for sealing the specific confidential information at issue,
17 and the filing party shall include this basis in its motion to seal, along with any objection to sealing
18 the information at issue. Local Civil Rule 5(g) sets forth the procedures that must be followed and
19 the standards that will be applied when a party seeks permission from the court to file material
20 under seal. A party who seeks to maintain the confidentiality of its information must satisfy the
21 requirements of Local Civil Rule 5(g)(3)(B), even if it is not the party filing the motion to seal.
22 Failure to satisfy this requirement will result in the motion to seal being denied, in accordance with
23 the strong presumption of public access to the Court’s files.
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1 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

2 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party or
3 non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take care
4 to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate standards.
5 The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items,
6 or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the material, documents,
7 items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept unjustifiably within
8 the ambit of this agreement.

9 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
10 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (e.g., to
11 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
12 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

13 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
14 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
15 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

16 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this agreement
17 (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or ordered,
18 disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must be clearly
19 so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

20 (a) Information in documentary form: (e.g., paper or electronic documents and deposition
21 exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), the
22 designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains confidential
23 material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the
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1 producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making appropriate
2 markings in the margins).

3 (b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any
4 participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial
5 proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony
6 after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the
7 transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or
8 exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information
9 at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

10 (c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior
11 of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word
12 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection,
13 the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

14 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to
15 designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party’s
16 right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a
17 designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated
18 in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

19 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

20 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of
21 confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party’s confidentiality
22 designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic
23 burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to
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1 challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the
2 original designation is disclosed.

3 6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding
4 confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential
5 designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration
6 or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other
7 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
8 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
9 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

10 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
11 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
12 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
13 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
14 made for an improper purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
15 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
16 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

17 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER
18 LITIGATION

19 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
20 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party
21 must:

22 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the subpoena or
23 court order;

1 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to issue in the
2 other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is subject to this
3 agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

4 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by the
5 designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

6 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

7 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
8 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
9 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
10 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
11 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
12 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
13 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

14 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
15 MATERIAL

16 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
17 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
18 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
19 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
20 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
21 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

22 10. NON TERMINATION AND RETURN OF DOCUMENTS
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1 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
2 party must return all confidential material to the producing party, including all copies, extracts and
3 summaries thereof. Alternatively, the parties may agree upon appropriate methods of destruction.

4 Notwithstanding this provision, counsel are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
5 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
6 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
7 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

8 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
9 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

10 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

11 Dated: December 23, 2024.

12 Respectfully submitted,

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14 **AKW LAW, P.C.**

15 /s/ Ada K. Wong

16 Ada K. Wong, WSBA #45936

17 Attorney for Plaintiff

18 12055 15th Ave NE, Suite 200

19 Seattle, WA 98125

20 Tel.: (206) 259-1259

21 Fax: (855) 925-9529

22 E-mail: ada@akw-law.com

23 **SEYFARTH SHAW LLP**

24 /s/ Kara Keister

Lauren Parris Watts, WSBA #44064

Kara Keister, Admitted *Pro Hac Vice*

Attorneys for Defendants
999 Third Avenue Suite 4700
Seattle, WA 98104
Tel.: (206) 946-4970
E-mail: lpwatts@seyfarth.com
E-mail: kkeister@seyfarth.com